

Thomas Atherton Coray House
Exeter, Pennsylvania.
Luzerne Co.

HABS No. Pa -27

HABS
PA.
No. EXT

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No.- Pa.-2

Historic American Buildings Survey
Thomas H. Atherton, District Officer.
139 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

ELISHA ATHERTON CORAY MILL
EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA
Pa-27

HABES
PA.

40-EXT

James Sutton, a merchant of North Castle, New York, came to Wyoming when the refusal of his customers to buy British goods ruined his business. First he settled on Jacob's Plain. Later he moved to upper Exeter. In the valley he built many mills for others. In Exeter, he built one mill for himself.

The water driven grist mill eased life for the pioneers. Hitherto they had ground their corn in hand mills hollowed out from hard wood blocks or with a large wooden pestle fastened to a spring pole which worked in a hollowed tree trunk.

In the grist mill the wheel lever was attached to the mill crank which drove a bevel gear. This gear turned the mill stones. Bear grease reduced friction and kept moving parts cool. The early mills had no bolting cloth. The meal and flour were separated by large screens. From top to bottom the mills were hand made. The millwright had simple tools, the draw knife was most used. The mill stones were hammered from hard gritty flint rock.

Such a mill James Sutton and his partner James Hadsall built in 1776 on the banks of Sutton's Creek. It was in operation until 1778.

In 1778 invading forces came down the river. At Sutton's Creek they divided. The Indians went up the creek. They passed the mill, burned it and killed James Hadsall. They carried off all the iron but the crank which is now in the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society Building.

Years later Samuel Sutton built a second mill on the site of the first. He operated this mill until 1842 when he was drowned in the river.

E. A. Coray bought the property in 1846 and built the third mill which is standing today. Charles A. Miner in 1900 stated that the Coray mill "was in use a few years ago and may be now."

Samuel Sutton built the house directly across the road from the mill. Its front door is unusually fine. An exquisitely dainty, light stairway is in the square entrance hall. James Sutton, grandson of the first James told me that the door and stairway were brought from Philadelphia. He lived in the old house until he came to Wilkes-Barre to build up the fortune which found supreme expression in the Sutton Home for Old Men.

Author. . . *James H. Sutton* . . .

Approved,

District Office *Thomas H. Atterton*

See S. H. 20.34